

National Park Service
2005 Environmental Achievement Awards

Honorable Mention

“Recycling Partnership with the National Park Service”
Forever Resorts (Concessioner)

Forever Resorts, a concessioner providing lodging, food and beverage, retail, gas station, and other associated visitor services within Big Bend National Park, implemented an aggressive recycling program in 2004 that, if maintained, was estimated to extend the life expectancy of the Park’s landfill by 30 years. Concessioner recycling efforts resulted in close to 43,000 pounds of materials being recycled, including approximately:

- 1,000 pounds of aluminum;
- 14,000 pounds of cardboard;
- 13,500 pounds of glass;
- 179 pounds of household batteries;
- 1,200 pounds of metal cans;
- 1,300 pounds of magazines;
- 500 pounds of mixed colored paper;
- 4,000 pounds of newspapers;
- 2,300 pounds of paper board;
- 2,500 pounds of plastic;
- 650 pounds of white paper;
- Two cases of fluorescent lights;
- 20 ink and toner cartridges;
- 240 gallons motor oil;
- 86 tires;
- 28 car batteries; and
- 560 gallons vegetable oil.

With the nearest recycling center being over 250 miles away, Forever Resorts’ efforts to recycle over 40 percent of their total waste stream was of great concern to the Park since the Park recycling center was being inundated with recyclable materials. While the Park encourages recycling, it did not have the resources to manage such large volumes of recyclables. Forever Resorts recognized the Park’s quandary and volunteered to have concessioner employees work at the Park recycling center, assisting with tasks such as unloading, sorting, bundling, stacking, and crushing recyclables. The Park-Forever Resorts recycling partnership has worked to both the advantage of the Park and the concessioner to support an aggressive recycling program in a remote area such as Big Bend National Park.